

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 1, 2006

**THE NEW OTANI HOTEL
120 So. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

EDWARD BENTLEY, MD	MELISSA MARTIN, MS
THEODORE MILLER, MD	JANIS OWENS, MD
WILLIAM BRAGGINS, CRT, ARRT	CHAD D. WARSHEL, DC
JOYCE COHEN, CRT, ARRT	MARGARET HISIN-SHUNG LEE, MD
ROGER ENG, MD	

MEMBERS ABSENT

EDGAR BAILEY, CHP, CHAIRMAN
JACK BOIS, DPM
BERNIE GOLER, MD

MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Gary Butner, Assistant Branch Chief, Radiologic Health Branch announced that Chairman Bailey would not be present to conduct the meeting. He then introduced Ms. Frieda Taylor, Chief Registration, Certification, Mammography, and Standards Section. Ms Taylor was appointed to serve as the Chairman of the Radiologic Technology Certification Committee (RTCC) for this meeting. Ms. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. A quorum of nine members was present. Each committee member introduced himself or herself and indicated their medical specialty. Radiologic Health Branch (RHB) staff that was present was introduced and gave their assignments. There were no proposed additions to the meeting agenda by RTCC members or persons of the audience.

First Order of Business: Approval of the minutes of the September 21, 2005 meeting. Motion by member Braggins, 2nd by member Cohen: PASSED

Second Order of Business: Approval of the December 15, 2005 subcommittee meeting. Motion by member Braggins, 2nd by member Cohen: PASSED

Third Order of Business: Radiologic Health Branch, RHB) Certification Unit status report:

- Senior Health Physicist Phillip Scott of the Regulations unit began his report by stating that one additional staff member has been added to his unit. Also, the new PET/CT operator certification program is being developed. Finally AB 929, Quality Control, Quality Assurance requirements for all medical radiographic facilities in now incorporated into the Radiation Control Law and regulations must be developed for the implementation. The Rule Making comment period will begin in 2007. There will be a notice posted for the comments.
- Senior Health Physicist Lisa Russell of the Mammography and Registration Unit discussed the Mammography certification program. Currently there are 732 mammography facilities operating 1260 machines statewide. There are also 505 physicist authorized to perform surveys on mammography machines or therapy linear accelerators. All technologist must be designated CRT (M) by the State of California to be permitted to expose patients for Mammography examinations.
- Senior Health Physicist Sudana Kwok of the Certification Unit presented information about the Radiologic Technology school approval program. Although the unit is short staffed there have been changes in application process that will expedite the approval process. Also, the application form for a limited permit (form DHS 8232) and the fluoro permit (form DHS 8218) has been revised as of Feb. 06.
- Supervising Program Technician 111, Yolanda Powell, of the Certification Support unit discussed the responsibilities of individuals who apply for a certificate or permit to operate diagnostic radiographic equipment. Ms Powell provided a timeline, which should help individuals understand some of the reasons for delay of approval of their application.

Ms Taylor then opened the meeting to comments from the audience concerning the operation of the certification program:

- Nancy Perkins asked if the RTCC minutes could be approved electronically in the future therefore making them available for review soon after the meeting date. D. Bunn said he would inquire if the Department will allow this process to be put in place. Minutes of the RTCC meetings are posted on the DHS WEB site following their approved by the committee.
- Anita Slechta had questions about the implementation of AB 929 for Phillip Scott. He said perhaps 2007.
- Linda Ortega asked about the time frame for school clinical site approvals. Sudana Kwok said inspection procedures were being developed.
- Lisa Tomastan of SEIU said there are different standards for California residents who want to advance to Mammography Technologist then there are for out-of-state residents who apply. She requested RTCC look at the process and make it easier for California residents to mammography certified.

Forth order of Business: Training requirements for operation of Digital Radiology equipment. Committee member Melissa Martin said the December 15, 2005 subcommittee meeting was called after an appeal to allow limited permittees to use digital equipment was received by RHB. The subcommittee did not vote to recommend that the regulation prohibiting the use of digital equipment be modified or removed. J. Yates of Merritt College said Ed Bailey wanted curriculum developed for everyone who uses digital equipment. Committee member William Braggins said a subcommittee should be formed to study the entire digital issue. Anita Slechta said all CRT schools have a digital training package in place now. Committee member Melissa Martin recommended that the RTCC follow the recommendations of the ARRT and do not allow limited permittees to use digital equipment. She said ARRT has reviewed California's regulation and agrees with the restriction. Committee member Dr. Roger Eng asked what is the position of RHB regarding the use of digital equipment by LPs? Phillip Scott said the regulation has been effective since 1985 and if there was a recommendation for a change by RTCC a new curriculum must be developed. Linda Ortega said the new technology is everywhere; outline clinics now have CR/DR equipment for processing x-ray exams. Nancy Perkins said LPs want to expand their education and become full CRTs eventually. Committee member Joyce Cohen said LPs might not have time to go back to school and they don't need a 12-month training program to cover the type of x-ray work done in small clinics and offices. Let them learn on the equipment they use at their work place. Diane Garcia said certain jobs have become out dated so if LPs want to use the new technology they should expand their educational pathway. Los Angeles County Radiation Management Senior Inspector Roger Galey said other inspectors in his office do not want the restriction lifted by recommendation of RTCC. Lisa Tomastan SEIU said LPs should move into CRT training programs. Kaiser Medical systems no longer uses film/screen, every thing is digital and they have invested in LPs by making it possible for them to return to school to become CRTs. Thomas Crosby said LPs do have the capacity to learn how to operate digital equipment all they need is a chance. Committee member Melissa Martin said there is a federal bill (CARE Bill) that will set educational standards for radiologic technologist throughout the country and this will address the training necessary to operate digital equipment.

MOTION by Melissa Martin: The RTCC shall support the current regulation that restricts the use of CR/DR equipment to CRTs only and does not allow limited permit holders to operate CR/DR equipment. **SECONED by William Braggins: PASSED:** eight in favor; one opposed.

MOTION by Dr. Roger Eng: (1) The RTCC shall establish a subcommittee to determine what credits should be given to LPs who want to move into CRT programs and (2) RHB shall establish CR/DR curriculum for all CRT programs and (3) require that a certain percentage of CEU are devoted to CR/DR operation for the renewal of CRT licenses.

SECONED by Melissa Martin: Discussion by committee member Miller; the RTCC does not set these standards it is beyond the scope of the committee. Also, each school has the prerogative to decide who can be accepted into their CRT program and this should not be dictated by RTCC. Nancy Perkins, Bakersfield College explained that there are national standards that schools follow and to look at applicant's requirements Title 5 of the California Education code must be followed. Several other members of the audience expressed their viewpoints concerning the training required for operation of CR/DR.

Ms Taylor called for the question: **MOTION PASSED** seven in favor two opposed.

LUNCH BREAK:

1:00 PM: Following lunch Ms Taylor called the meeting to order:

FIFTH Order of Business: Continuing education requirements for licentiate renewal of Supervisor & Operators (S&O) certificate. Committee member Dr. Edward Bentley opened the discussion by referencing section 30403 (b) CCR that states non Radiologist Physicians must earn at least 10 CEU for the renewal of their (S&O) certificates within two years of the expiration of the certificate. Those referred to in section 30466 are; the fluoroscopy and operator permit; the radiology supervisor and operator permit; the dermatology supervisor and operator permit; and Radiologist. For non-Radiology physicians this includes; general surgeons, cardiologist, urologist, orthopedists, and gastroenterologists, among others. Section 30423 requires schools to provide 40 hours of instruction to applicants with no previous training. Therefore, the CEU requirement is 25% of the total training requirement. When this requirement was adopted by DHS in 2001 non-radiology physicians were outraged because it impacted on the time could allot to their own CEU needs. Dr. Bentley then introduced Dr. Richard Frankenstein speaker for the California Medical Association (CMA).

Dr. Frankenstein outlined reasons the CMA felt the CEU requirements were uncertain and unjustified. He cited that there is no evidence of patient harm based on the physician's use of fluoroscopy equipment and that there may be better ways to protect the public. Also, courses are hard to locate and physicians cannot take CRT courses because they do not count for credit for physicians. DHS should offer courses on line to make obtaining the CEU easier. Committee member Melissa Martin asked, "What happens when a physician gives up their fluoroscopy permit"? Answer: The patient is then referred to a Radiologist. Diane Garcia, City College of San Francisco said the CEU is needed and she cited hazards to the patient caused by excessive use of fluoroscopy by non-radiology physicians.

Committee member Dr. Roger Eng asked has RHB monitored the effectiveness of CEU for patient exposure reduction? Phillip Scott, RHB said in 1992 RTCC asked for patient monitoring and recommended the CEU be reduced from 24 hours to the present 10 hours every two years. Roger Galey, LA County Inspector said patient exposure can go to very high levels depending on the fluoroscopy mode used and most physicians do not realize this. Other comments outlined the hazards associated with the excessive use of fluoroscopy by untrained physicians.

MOTION by committee member Dr. Edward Bentley: Change 30403 (b) to reduce 10 CEU to 2 CEU. **SECONED** by Committee member Dr. Theodore Miller. Frieda Taylor called for the question: Did Not Pass; Three for and seven opposed.

SIXTH order of Business: Radiology Practitioner Associate (RPA) & Radiologist Assistant (RA) issues. Mr. Bryan Gilbert presented information about RPA & RA occupations, their history and benefits to the medical community that they provide. He said RPA & RA training is not recognized in California and therefore, individuals who complete the training program at Loma Linda University must seek employment out of the state. Mr. Gilbert asked that the RTCC recognize RPA & RP training and support a law to

allow them to work in California. Phillip Scott pointed out that section 114870 and 114850 (g) of the Health & Safety code specifies that only a licensed physician can supervise to operation of x-ray equipment for diagnosis on humans. Therefore, the RTCC cannot recommend that someone other than a licentiate of the healing arts supervise the use of x-rays on humans so there should not be any action on Mr. Gilbert's request.

Committee member William Braggins asked if the RTCC could hear an explanation of the CARE Act at the next meeting which he felt would clarify some of the issues raised by Mr. Gilbert such as the definition of supervision of the use of x-rays on humans.

MOTION to include a discussion of the CARE Act on the next meeting agenda. Seconded by committee member Melissa Martin.

MOTION PASSED. The item will be added to the next meetings agenda.

Chairperson Taylor thanked Mr. Gilbert for his presentation. She then opened the floor for the Public Comment period.

FINAL Order of Business: COMMENTS from the Audience: The majority of the comments were directed at the RTCC failure to recommend removal of the restriction against limited permit holders using CR/DR equipment. Several individuals said they faced loosing their jobs due to the installation of CR/DR equipment in the clinics and offices where they worked. Ms. Diane Przepiorski of the California Orthopedic Association (COA) stated that Orthopedic Doctors hire LPs and CRTs and if they could no longer hire LPs because of that addition of CR/DR equipment there would be a severe shortage of individuals qualified to work in their offices and take the necessary x-ray examinations. She urged the RTCC to allow LP programs to upgrade their training in radiation safety to teach CR/DR proper use.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Assistant Branch Chief, Gary Butner thanked the RTCC on behalf of DHS Director, Sandra Shewry for their participation.

Ms. Taylor stated that there would be another RTCC meeting this fall and the date and location will be announced later. At this point, if there are no further comments, the meeting is adjourned until the next RTCC meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 4:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by

Donald E. Bunn, RTCC Coordinator